

On page 1, immediately preceding the first paragraph, please insert –

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BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --.

(N) On page 6, prior to the paragraph beginning "This invention is explained in greater detail below ...", please insert – BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --.

(N) On page 7, prior to the paragraph beginning "Fig. 1 shows the process ...", please insert – DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT --.

In the Claims:

Please delete original claims 1 – 15 and replace them with new claims 16 – 28. Please enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee.

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Sub. 33 >
(N) 16. (New) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, wherein the opening is punched out of a packaging material, the packaging material is coated at least in the area of the opening, a package sleeve is created from the packaging material, a tear-open strip is attached to the opening in the package sleeve, and wherein the package sleeve is slid onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling the package and the tear-open strip is attached either at the mandrel of the mandrel wheel or in the region of a pocket with the help of an anvil.

17. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the package sleeve is conveyed to the filling machine in such a way that its opening points outward across the working direction of the filling machine.

18. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on the filling machine and the location where the tear-off strip is attached.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip is applied between the mandrels of a mandrel wheel which is driven in cycles, the tear-off strip applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between two mandrels and is retracted again after the tear-off strip has been welded.

20. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip or a pouring element is applied upstream from an aseptic station of the filling machine.

21. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by welding.

22. (New) A method according to Claim 21, wherein the tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by ultrasonic welding or high-frequency welding.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by gluing.

24. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip or a pouring element is pulled off from a supply roll having a plurality of tear-off strips or pouring elements.

25. (New) A method according to Claim 24, wherein the tear-off strip or the pouring element is conveyed by means of feed rollers and is detached from the supply roll by a cutting device.

26. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the tear-off strip consists of a tear-resistant aluminum strip.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the filling machine is a filling machine having multiple lanes.

28. (New) A laminated package having an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, as produced by the method of Claim 16.

In the Abstract

(NE) In the Abstract, line 7, delete "(22)", line 8, delete "(1)", line 9, delete "(1)", line 10, delete "(22)", line 11, delete "(5)", line 14, delete "(6)" and "(9)", line 15, delete "(6)", line 16, delete "(24)" and "(22)", line 17, delete "(5)" and "(6)", line 18, delete "(9)", and line 19, delete "(6)".